

Smith-Gilbert Arboretum

Kennesaw, Georgia
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● North Metro Tech Takes Over Arboretum Management

In a move that will benefit all sides, the City of Kennesaw has negotiated with North Metro Technical College in Bartow County to take over day-to-day management of the Arboretum. With close to 3,000 different trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants, Smith-Gilbert is a challenging environment requiring excellent horticultural management. North Metro, which has a well established and highly thought of horticultural training program, is well suited to the task. Professor Rex Bishop has been named manager with other NMTC faculty and staff assisting. The liaison with NMTC also offers the Arboretum a valuable tool and relationship to use in achieving its own educational and community outreach goals and developing into a world-class botanical garden. Dr. Jeff Drobney, Director of Recreation and Culture for the City of Kennesaw, believes the relationship between North Metro and the city will serve both institutions. It will give the city the expertise it needs to manage a facility with such a breadth of plant material. It will also benefit NMTC by providing opportunities to expand their educational programming outside of traditional classroom boundaries.



Final Tally

**Plant a Row
for the Hungry**



Plant-a-row for
the Hungry
donates over
ONE TON
of fresh produce
to Cobb citizens in
need this
season!



● Cobb Master Gardeners Provide Major Help at SGA

Beginning as early as late 2004, one particular group has been very important to the Smith-Gilbert Arboretum, and they are the Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County. What exactly is a master gardener? First and foremost, a MG is a community volunteer. Secondly, he or she is someone who has been trained with scientific, research-based knowledge about horticulture (a fancy name anything to do with plants and how they grow). Master Gardeners then pay back the expense of their training by volunteering to share this knowledge with the community.

Master Gardeners come from all different walks in life. They are teachers, nurses, doctors, housewives and entrepreneurs. They have worked for Fortune 500 companies and run their own businesses. What they have in common is an interest in and love of gardening.

At Smith-Gilbert, Master Gardeners have filled several very important roles. They have established two MG demonstration projects on site: the Rose Garden and the Plant-a-Row for the Hungry Project. They have trained as docents and led informative tours of the garden for groups large and small. And, they have put in many hours just maintaining and improving the existing plantings. Behind the scenes they have organized data bases, selected plants, sent letters, drawn maps, and promoted the garden to interested groups and individuals. Whenever and wherever there was a need they have jumped in to help. The Arboretum deeply appreciates all their help and support.

If you would be interested in becoming a Master Gardener, please contact your Cobb County Extension Service at (770) 528-4070 for more information.



NATURE



ART



HISTORY

● Art Consultant Evaluates SGA



Danielle Roney in front of 'Man in the Moon' sculpture

Kennesaw's Smith-Gilbert Arboretum is a rare treasure. Where in the Southeast does one find a botanic garden, a sculpture garden and a historic site in one public park? Dr. Robert Gilbert, former owner and garden creator, has donated 30 works from his private outdoor sculpture collection to the Arboretum. The sculptures have been preserved with care, but continued conservation is an important task for the city in order to ensure the historic preservation and value of the work. Outdoor art is at the mercy of the elements: weather, air pollution, as well as damage from humans or animals. If not maintained and repaired on a regular basis, it will surely deteriorate. This past summer the city of Kennesaw was fortunate to engage the services of an experienced public art consultant, Danielle Roney, who has worked with such entities as the city of Atlanta, the Fulton County Arts Counsel, and the city of Austin, Texas. Ms. Roney spent time at the Arboretum assessing each of the pieces and has formulated a five-year plan for conservation and maintenance. She is also providing valuable information regarding educational and art community resources.

-Jo-Evelyn Morris, Sculpture Committee Chair

● Educational Programs & Public Tours

In 2007 for the first time the Smith-Gilbert Arboretum will be offering a series of educational programs and tours to the general public. These programs will be listed in Kennesaw's Parks & Recreation Program Guide (look for the separate SGA page) to be mailed in early December, as well as on the city website (www.kennesaw-ga.gov/pkrec). You can request a program guide by mail by calling (770) 422-9714 or clicking on "Program Guide" on the website and completing the Program Guide Request Form. Registration is limited so be sure to sign up early! Questions may be directed to Michele Browne at (770) 427-2117 Ext. 109.



● Perennial Bed Redesign and Renewal

Visitors enjoy perennials of summer at the SGA

One of the star attractions at SGA is the perennial border. In season it is a rainbow of color and shape, attracting butterflies and bees as well as people. However, to stay in top form, perennial plants need to be replaced or divided and replanted regularly. Design elements such as height and width, color, and bloom time have to be considered. It had been some time since the SGA perennial border was renewed. Jim Harrington, of Jim Harrington Garden Designs, a recognized area perennial plant expert, created a new plan for the border, eliminating some "overly enthusiastic" plants, moving others, and adding plants new to the market. Fall is the perfect time for such work. On Saturday, October 28th, Jim supervised a group of Cobb County Master Gardener volunteers in digging up the entire border, reworking the soil, and implementing the new plan. This coming year all our visitors will enjoy a bright and beautiful new perennial showcase. Our thanks to Jim and the hard-working Master Gardeners.



NATURE



ART



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